

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-11, 16, 20, and 24-25 are presently pending in the application. Claims 1, 16, 20, 24, and 25 have been amended to more particularly define the invention. Claims 2-3, 12-15, 17-19, and 21-23 have been cancelled in the interest of expediting prosecution.

The continued allowance of claims 4-11 is noted with appreciation. However, Applicant respectfully submits that all the claims are allowable.

Claims 12-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kurata, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,392,372. Claims 12-13 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Greer, U.S. Patent No. 4,182,545. Claims 16-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hirai, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,481,632. Claims 20-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirai in view of Booth, U.S. Patent No. 5,098,804 and claims 1-3 and 24-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goto, U.S. Patent No. 6,037,189 in view of Kurata, et al.

The exemplary embodiments of the invention set forth in claims 1, 16, 20, 24-25 are directed to optical modules, and methods of forming optical modules, which include, or are adapted for use with, a photoreceptive optical element, and which include an optical waveguide having a spot-size conversion region configured by gradually increasing the width or the thickness, or both, of the optical waveguide at an end thereof which is coupled, or adapted to be coupled, to the photoreceptive optical element.

None of Kurata, et al., Greer, Hirai, et al., Booth, and Goto shows or suggests such an optical module. That is, none of Kurata, et al., Greer, Hirai, et al., Booth, and Goto shows or

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suggests an optical module which includes an optical waveguide having a spot-size conversion region configured by gradually increasing the width or the thickness, or both, of the optical waveguide at an end thereof which is coupled, or adapted to be coupled, to a photoreceptive optical element.

Claim 16 distinguishes from the references just as does allowable claim 5. Claims 20 is dependent from claim 16. Thus, claims 16 and 20 are allowable, just as is claim 5.

It is accordingly submitted that claims 1, 16, 20, and 24-25 distinguish patentably from Kurata, et al., Greer, Hirai, et al., Booth, and Goto and are allowable, as are claims 4-11.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1, 4-11, 16, 20, and 24-25, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are allowable, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such action would be appreciated.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary for allowance in a telephonic or personal interview.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in fees, including

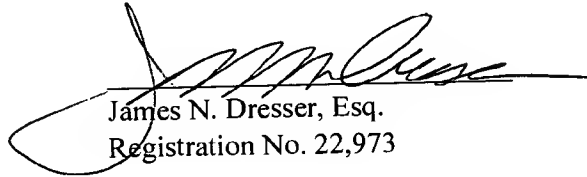
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extension of time fees, or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account
No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

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